

IASWECE Council Meeting in Tartu, Estonia, October 12 – 16, 2016

Clara Aerts

Our last council meeting in Tartu, Estonia was a remarkable one in many ways. First of all it marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Helmut von Kügelgen, who was the founder of IASWECE and was born in Estonia. Together with colleagues from Estonia and the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) we commemorated the important work he did for the young child in the world.



In the spirit of his work, a public conference was organized at the University of Tartu on the theme 'Education in the Digital Age - A Challenge for Parents and Teachers'. Taking advantage of the unique occasion that the ECSWE council meeting was taking place at the same time and in the same place as the IASWECE council, we had 3 joint working sessions on three topics that interest both the Waldorf Early Childhood movement and the Waldorf Schools: Media Literacy, Transition between Kindergarten and School, and Assessment. In our study we deepened our understanding of the phenomena of our time through the lecture, "The Work of the Angels in Our Astral Body" (GA 182) and once more were touched by how the images described by Rudolf Steiner are speaking to the contemporary realities we are witnessing.

The challenges we are facing as humankind today will not become less in the near future and the task of our work for the young children who will shape the world of tomorrow will therefore become increasingly important. Among the planned activities are worldwide regional conferences on 'Sleep' fostered by IASWECE's Birth to Three working group. We also looked forward to the Waldorf 100 celebrations in 2019 and took the first steps towards planning IASWECE's international conference in the week before Easter 2019 in Dornach.

As always the council also reviewed the various project applications that reached us and again we are pleased to welcome some new initiatives. In 2017, IASWECE will support training, further training, mentoring and conferences in

- Africa (East Africa, Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Africa, Zimbabwe) Total amount: 25 000€
- Asia (Armenia, India, Indonesia, Kirgizstan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam) Total amount: 24 250€

- Europe: (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine) Total amount: 40 400€
- Latin America: (Central America, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador) Total amount: 8500€
- Pacific: (Fiji): Total amount 650€

Concerning most of this project you find further information on our Website www.iaswece.org in the section Waldorf Worldwide. If you have specific questions to one or the other project you can contact info@iaswece.org

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